DEFIANT
9
$2.50
$3.50 CANADA
DARK
DOMINION
™
J. G. Jones
Su
Mikellner
94

HELL'S KITCHEN. WEST 41ST STREET AND 10TH AVENUE.
10:08 P.M.
MY SON JUDAH DOTH LAY INJURED, EXALTED ONE, PERHAPS DYING.
WILT THOU NOT USE THINE HEAVENLY POWER TO SAVE HIM?
I TOLD YOU BEFORE, PURITAN--I AM MERELY A MAN.
IF I DID HAVE SUCH POWERS, DON'T YOU THINK I'D USE THEM TO HEAL MYSELF?
HELL HATH NO FURY!
ONCE A HERO...! PART THREE
LEN WEIN WRITER
J.G. JONES PENCILLER
MIKE BARREIRO INKER
SU MCTEIGUE PAINTER
CLEM ROBINS LETTERER
PAULINE WEISS EDITOR

THOU WERT GIVEN THE CHANCE TO BE GENEROUS, MICHAEL ALEXANDER...
UH-OH.
NOW THOU SHALT PAY FOR THY SELFISHNESS!
I TOLD YOU THE TRUTH, PURITAN...
...BUT YOU'VE NEVER WANTED TO LISTEN!
THIS SORT OF SENSELESS VIOLENCE WON'T SOLVE ANY-
--UUNNHH!!
YOU OKAY, GLIMMER?
EVEN IN MY QUANTUM FORM, I FELT THAT BLAST OF SOULFIRE, MERCY--
--BUT I HAVE NO INTENTION OF BEING DRAGGED INTO A USE-LESS FIGHT HERE!
WE'LL TALK AGAIN SOON!
NO! THOU CANST NOT SIMPLY ABANDON US!
IF MY CHILD DOTH PERISH THIS NIGHT, FAITHLESS ONE--
--SO SHALL YE!

WELL, THAT WAS A DISASTER.
I WAS HOPING TO REASON WITH THE PURITAN--
--BUT THAT UNEXPECTED ATTACK BY VEX RUINED EVERYTHING.
MAYBE I SHOULD STILL CALL AN AMBULANCE FOR JUDAH--OW!--DESPITE THE PURITAN'S PROTESTS..
BOY, THAT ARM I INJURED DURING THE FIGHT IS KILLING ME--
--AND I'M NEVER GOING TO BE ABLE TO GET OUT THIS SOULFIRE STAIN!
I WONDER IF GALAHAD EVER HAD THIS SORT OF PROBLEM WITH--
HMMM...
BAR
YOU TAKE THAT BACK, YOU MORON!
WANNA TRY AN' MAKE ME, FATSO?
IT APPEARS VEX AND HIS BROOD ARE NOT DONE HAVING THEIR FUN!
...START A FIGHT...
...MIGHT MAKES RIGHT...
I'M WARNING YOU, MAN--APOLOGIZE!

DARK DOMINION™ #9. June 1994. Published by DEFIANT®, a division of Enlightened Entertainment Partners, L.P. 232 Madison Avenue, New York, NY 10016. Jim Shooter, President; Winston Fowlkes, Publisher. Published monthly. Copyright © 1994 EEP, L.P. All rights reserved. Price $2.50 per copy in the U.S. and $3.50 in Canada. No similarity between any of the names, characters, persons, and/or institutions in this magazine with those of any person living or dead or any institution is intended, and any such similarity that may exist is purely coincidental. The trademarks DEFIANT, ENLIGHTENED ENTERTAINMENT, and DARK DOMINION and all of the character names and likenesses featured herein are the exclusive property of EEP, L.P. PRINTED IN CANADA.

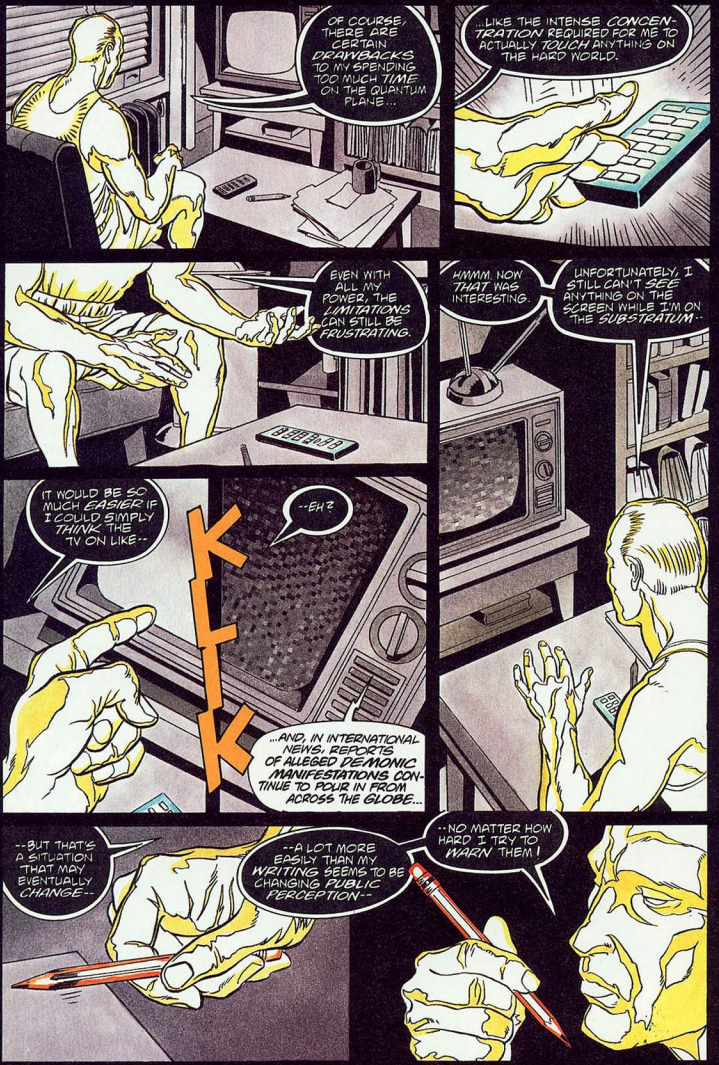
FAT CHANCE, FAT BOY!
UNNHH!!
..BEAT HIM BAD...
...?GLK?...
OKAY, THAT'S ENOUGH!
YOU LOUSY--!
...MAKE HIM MAD...
...?ULK?...
IF YOU WANT TO PICK A FIGHT--
--PICK ONE WITH ME!
...?GLK?...
WH-WHAT AM I DOING HERE?
I'M NO FIGHTER..
ME--}FAK?--
NEITHER.
S-SEE YOU AT WORK TOMORROW, JACK?
YEAH, SURE, STAN. WE'LL DO LUNCH.
THAT'S BETTER. THOSE VEXLINGS WERE--
--EH?
...BRING YOU DOWN...
...MAKE YOU DROWN...

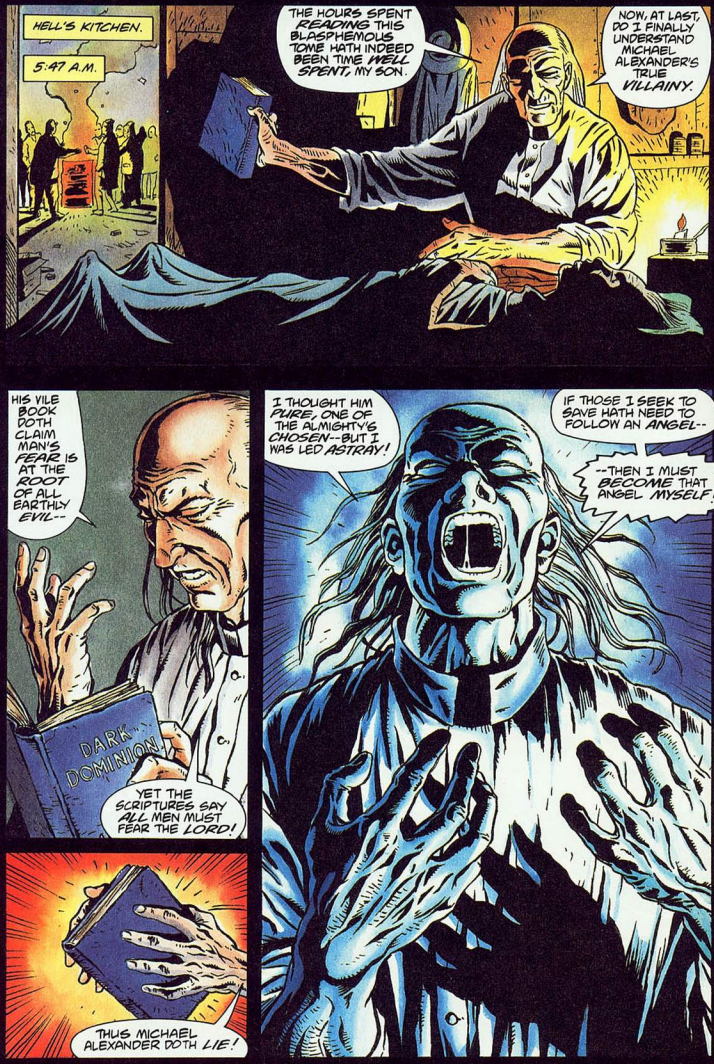
ENOUGH ALREADY!
...GLGK?...
YOU'RE SERIOUSLY STARTING TO ANNOY ME--
...ULK?...
--AND I'M JUST NOT IN THE MOOD TO BE BOTHERED RIGHT NOW!
IT'S NOT AS IF YOU HAVE A CHOICE, GLINT!...
VEX?
...AS IF YOU HAVEN'T BEEN EXPECTING ME...
I'M TIRED OF PLAYING THESE GAMES, SLIME--!
IT'S TIME WE PUT AN END TO THIS!
...YOUR TIME MAY SOON BE ENDED, GLARE...
BUT MINE IS ONLY BEGINNING!...
UUNNHH!!
...THINGS HAVE CHANGED, GLINT...!
...I'VE GROWN TOO POWERFUL TO BE DEFEATED BY SUCH AS YOU!...
...I STRONGLY SUGGEST YOU THINK ABOUT THAT...
...FOR WHAT LITTLE TIME YOU MAY HAVE REMAINING!...

HELL'S KITCHEN.
11:23 PM.
...LORD, I BEG THEE TO SPARE THY GOOD AND FAITHFUL SON, JUDAH...
HE'S STILL PRAYIN', HUH?
HE THAT BELIEVETH IN THE LORD SHALL BE FOREVER SAVED, NOSEWIPE.
YOU GOT A PROBLEM WITH THAT?
IT'S MERCY, FATHER.
I BRUNG YA SOME FRESH WATER.
SO HOW'S JUDAH DOIN'?
THERE HATH BEEN NO CHANGE.
BUT I DO NOT FEAR FOR MY CHILD.
THE LORD SHALL SEE TO HIS RECOVERY.
WELL, IN CASE THE LORD'S BUSY RIGHT NOW, DON'CHA THINK MAYBE WE OUGHTA TAKE HIM TO THE HOSPITAL?
THAT'S WHERE MICHAEL TOOK ME WHEN I GOT MY FINGERS CHOPPED OFF.
OH?
AND DOST THOU KNOW THIS MICHAEL WELL, SISTER?
GUESS YA COULD SAY HE'S MY BEST FRIEND.
REALLY?
THEN PRAY TELL ME MORE.

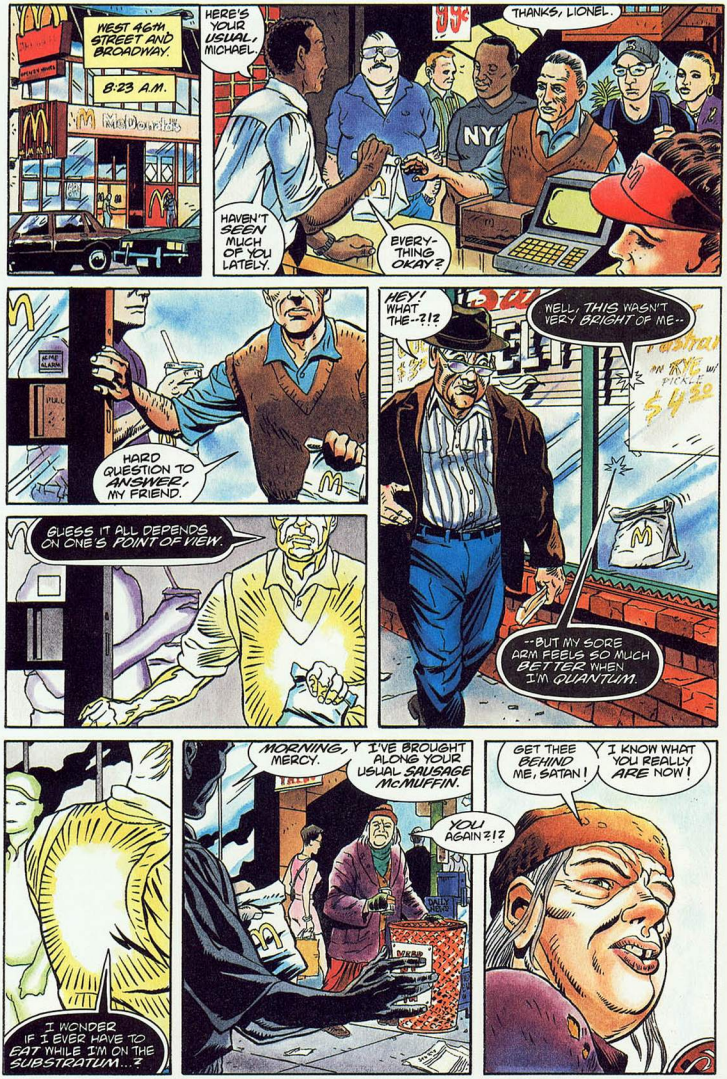
WELL, HE... HE AIN'T REALLY LIKE NORMAL PEOPLE.
HE CAN...WELL, HE...
HERE, THIS'LL EXPLAIN IT A WHOLE LOT BETTER THAN I CAN.
MICHAEL ALEXANDER
"DARK DOMINION," EH?
'TIS A MOST APPROPRIATE TITLE, METHINKS.
HOW D'YA MEAN?
DARK DOMINION
MICHAEL ALEXANDER
WITH ALL HIS POWER, MICHAEL ALEXANDER COULD HAVE STOOD ON THE SIDE OF THE ANGELS --
YET HE HATH CHOSEN NOT TO USE HIS GIFTS IN THE SERVICE OF THE LORD.
AND, ONE WAY OR ANOTHER, HE WILL PAY FOR THAT CHOICE!
NOW, IF THOU WOULDST LEAVE US, SISTER, THOU HAST GIVEN ME MUCH TO PONDER...
...AND I MUST RESUME MY PRAYER VIGIL.
MY POOR SON HATH NEED OF ME.

MICHAEL ALEXANDER'S WESTSIDE APARTMENT.
11:49 P.M.
DON'T WALK
WELL, THE ARM IS DEFINITELY GOING TO BE SORE FOR A FEW DAYS--
--BUT AT LEAST IT ISN'T BROKEN!
--THOUGH, CONSIDERING HOW MUCH IT --OUCH!-- HURTS TO MOVE IT--
--IT MIGHT AS WELL BE!
ARM DIDN'T--OW!-- ACHE NEARLY SO MUCH WHILE I WAS IN QUANTUM FORM.
HMMM.
NOW, THERE'S A THOUGHT.
WORTH GIVING IT A TRY, I GUESS.
WELL, IT WORKS.
I FEEL ALMOST NO PAIN AT ALL THIS WAY.
I STILL HAVE SO MUCH TO LEARN ABOUT LIVING ON THE SUBSTRATUM.


OF COURSE, THERE ARE CERTAIN DRAWBACKS TO MY SPENDING TOO MUCH TIME ON THE QUANTUM PLANE...
...LIKE THE INTENSE CONCENTRATION REQUIRED FOR ME TO ACTUALLY TOUCH ANYTHING ON THE HARD WORLD.
EVEN WITH ALL MY POWER, THE LIMITATIONS CAN STILL BE FRUSTRATING.
HMMM. NOW THAT WAS INTERESTING.
UNFORTUNATELY, I STILL CAN'T SEE ANYTHING ON THE SCREEN WHILE I'M ON THE SUBSTRATUM--
IT WOULD BE SO MUCH EASIER IF I COULD SIMPLY THINK THE TV ON LIKE--
--EH?
KLIK
...AND, IN INTERNATIONAL NEWS, REPORTS OF ALLEGED DEMONIC MANIFESTATIONS CONTINUE TO POUR IN FROM ACROSS THE GLOBE...
--BUT THAT'S A SITUATION THAT MAY EVENTUALLY CHANGE--
--A LOT MORE EASILY THAN MY WRITING SEEMS TO BE CHANGING PUBLIC PERCEPTION--
--NO MATTER HOW HARD I TRY TO WARN THEM!


HELL'S KITCHEN.
5:47 A.M.
THE HOURS SPENT READING THIS BLASPHEMOUS TOME HATH INDEED BEEN TIME WELL SPENT, MY SON.
NOW, AT LAST, DO I FINALLY UNDERSTAND MICHAEL ALEXANDER'S TRUE VILLAINY.
HIS VILE BOOK DOTH CLAIM MAN'S FEAR IS AT THE ROOT OF ALL EARTHLY EVIL--
DARK DOMINION
YET THE SCRIPTURES SAY ALL MEN MUST FEAR THE LORD!
I THOUGHT HIM PURE, ONE OF THE ALMIGHTY'S CHOSEN--BUT I WAS LED ASTRAY!
IF THOSE I SEEK TO SAVE HATH NEED TO FOLLOW AN ANGEL--
--THEN I MUST BECOME THAT ANGEL MYSELF!
THUS MICHAEL ALEXANDER DOTH LIE!

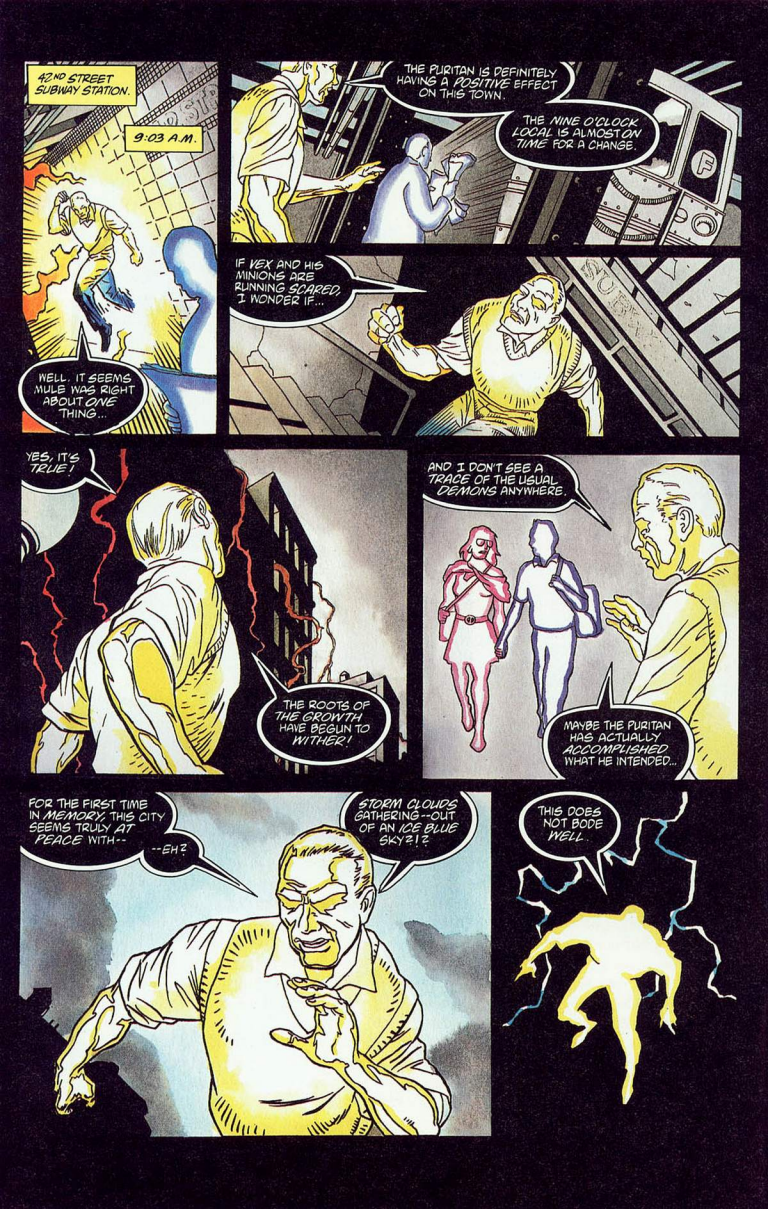
AND IF THOU ART TRULY TO RECOVER, MY SON--
--THEN SEEMS 'TIS I WHO MUST HEAL THEE!
LORD, I BESEECH THEE, GRANT ME THE POWER TO DO WHAT MUST BE DONE--
--TO SAVE BOTH MY CHILD AND THIS SORROWFUL WORLD!
I PRAY THEE, LORD, HEAR MY HUMBLE--
F-FATHER?
JUDAH?
THANK THEE, ALMIGHTY, FOR THIS MOST WONDROUS GIFT!
I SWEAR I SHALL USE IT ONLY IN THY GLORIOUS NAME!
FATHER, WH-WHAT ARE YOU SAYING?
THAT I WAS WRONG, MY SON!
CLEARLY, MICHAEL ALEXANDER WAS NOT THE LORD'S CHOSEN ONE...
..I AM!
BROTHERS AND SISTERS, HEED ME!
OUR MOMENT OF SALVATION IS AT LAST AT HAND!
HEY-- LOOK! THE KID'S OKAY!
AYE, BROTHER, AND EVEN AS I HAVE HEALED MY ONLY BEGOTTEN SON--
--SO TOO, WITH THY HELP, SHALL I SAVE THIS SINFUL CITY!


WEST 46TH STREET AND BROADWAY.
8:23 A.M.
HERE'S YOUR USUAL, MICHAEL.
THANKS, LIONEL.
HAVEN'T SEEN MUCH OF YOU LATELY.
EVERY-THING OKAY?
HARD QUESTION TO ANSWER, MY FRIEND.
HEY! WHAT THE--?!?
WELL, THIS WASN'T VERY BRIGHT OF ME--
--BUT MY SORE ARM FEELS SO MUCH BETTER WHEN I'M QUANTUM.
GUESS IT ALL DEPENDS ON ONE'S POINT OF VIEW.
I WONDER IF I EVER HAVE TO EAT WHILE I'M ON THE SUBSTRATUM...?
MORNING, MERCY.
I'VE BROUGHT ALONG YOUR USUAL SAUSAGE MCMUFFIN.
YOU AGAIN?!?
GET THEE BEHIND ME, SATAN!
I KNOW WHAT YOU REALLY ARE NOW!

MERCY, WHAT'S WRONG?
THIS IS THE SAME SANDWICH I ALWAYS BRING YOU.
NO PARKING
I'M WARNING YA, DEVIL--
--LEAD OL' MERCY NOT INTO TEMPTATION!
BUT WHY? I THOUGHT WE WERE FRIENDS.
NOT NO MORE WE AIN'T!
DON'T YOU BE COMING 'ROUND HERE, MICHAEL!
I DON'T WANNA SEE YOU!
MERCY, I--
--EH?
WHAT DO YOU WANT?
...I COME FROM MULE, GLINT!...
...HE WISHES TO SPEAK TO YOU ON A MATTER OF GRAVE CONCERN!...
DOES HE STILL LIVE IN HIS CENTRAL PARK FORTRESS?
...AYE...
I AM TO TAKE YOU TO HIM...!
NO, SLIME...
ALLOW ME TO TAKE YOU!

CENTRAL PARK.
8:47 A.M.
HERE, RISING LIKE A MALIGNANT GROWTH ON THE QUANTUM PLANE, UNSEEN AND UNNOTICED BY MORE PEDESTRIAN PASSERSBY, THERE IS A CITADEL--
--THE CASTLE KEEP OF ONE OF THE MOST POWERFUL DWELLERS ON THE SUBSTRATUM...
MULE!
THIS HAD BETTER BE IMPORTANT!
I SEE YOU'VE LEARNED THE DANCE. MOST IMPRESSIVE.
SAVE THE COMPLIMENTS. WHAT DO YOU WANT?
YOU KNOW, I WAS ONCE A MAN LIKE YOU...
...BORN ON THE HARD WORLD, BUT ABLE TO WALK THE SUBSTRATUM...
...UNTIL THE DAY I WAS GRIEVOUSLY INJURED!
TO ESCAPE MY PAIN, I REMAINED ON THE QUANTUM PLANE--
--AND ULTIMATELY FOUND MYSELF TRAPPED HERE!
YOU SEE, I'VE FORGOTTEN HOW TO RETURN TO YOUR WORLD.
SO WHAT'S YOUR POINT?
JUST A WARNING, GLIMMER. IT CAN HAPPEN TO YOU.
DID YOU KNOW, FOR EXAMPLE, THAT CHASM HAS DISAPPEARED?
I'VE HEARD RUMORS. ANYTHING ELSE?
WELL, THERE IS THIS SO-CALLED PURITAN, OF COURSE--
BUT YOU ALREADY KNOW THE THREAT HE POSES TO US ALL!

SOMEHOW, THIS PURITAN HAS TAPPED INTO FORCES UNIMAGINABLY POWERFUL.
YOU HAVEN'T A PRAYER OF DEFEATING HIM ALONE, GLIMMER.
BUT IF WE WERE TO WORK TOGETHER, BECOME ALLIES..
AHHH... SO THAT'S IT.
WELL, FORGET IT, MULE!
IT'S NEVER GOING TO HAPPEN.
CAN YOU REALLY BE THAT ARROGANT?
WE ALL NEED HELP NOW AND THEN.
NOT YOURS.
DON'T BE A FOOL! YOU'RE GAMBLING WITH THE LIVES OF BILLIONS HERE!
I'VE FACED IMPOSSIBLE ODDS BEFORE.
FRANKLY, I'M STARTING TO GET USED TO IT.
GLIMMER --WAIT!
DON'T SEND FOR ME AGAIN, MULE!
NEXT TIME YOU WON'T LIKE MY ANSWER!


42ND STREET SUBWAY STATION.
9:03 A.M.
WELL.. IT SEEMS MULE WAS RIGHT ABOUT ONE THING...
THE PURITAN IS DEFINITELY HAVING A POSITIVE EFFECT ON THIS TOWN.
THE NINE O'CLOCK LOCAL IS ALMOST ON TIME FOR A CHANGE.
IF VEX AND HIS MINIONS ARE RUNNING SCARED, I WONDER IF...
YES, IT'S TRUE!
THE ROOTS OF THE GROWTH HAVE BEGUN TO WITHER!
AND I DON'T SEE A TRACE OF THE USUAL DEMONS ANYWHERE.
MAYBE THE PURITAN HAS ACTUALLY ACCOMPLISHED WHAT HE INTENDED...
FOR THE FIRST TIME IN MEMORY, THIS CITY SEEMS TRULY AT PEACE WITH--
--EH?
STORM CLOUDS GATHERING--OUT OF AN ICE BLUE SKY?!?
THIS DOES NOT BODE WELL.

DOWNTOWN, BATTERY PARK.
9:36 A.M.
BEHOLD, CHILDREN, THE TEMPLES OF SODOM, THE TOWERS OF GOMORRAH!
"I THOUGHT AT FIRST I COULD SAVE NEW YORK FROM ITS OWN WICKEDNESS --
"--BUT I KNOW NOW I WAS WRONG!"
THIS CITY MUST BE PUNISHED FOR ITS SINS --
BROUGHT DOWN TO THE VILE DUST WHENCE IT SPRUNG --
--THAT NEW LIFE, HOLY LIFE, MIGHT RISE FROM ITS ASHES!
THE DAY THAT EVEN THE SCRIPTURES SPOKE OF ONLY IN WHISPERS IS AT LAST UPON US, CHILDREN --
THE DAWN OF THE GREAT APOCALYPSE!
AND ONLY THOSE DEEMED TRULY WORTHY SHALL BE SAVED--!
AND WHO DECIDES WHO'S WORTHY, PURITAN?
EH?
YOU?
WHO DIED AND MADE YOU GOD?

GET THEE HENCE, DEVIL! THOU ART NOT WELCOME HERE!
YOU DON'T HAVE TO DO THIS, PURITAN.
YOU'VE ACTUALLY ACCOMPLISHED WHAT YOU SET OUT TO DO...
MOST OF THE CITY'S DEMONS HAVE FLED...THE GROWTH HAS BEGUN TO WITHER...
WITH YOUR POWER, YOU COULD BE AN ANGEL OF LIGHT INSTEAD OF DESTRUCTION.
NO! THIS IS A PLACE OF SIN AND CORRUPTION! IT MUST BE CLEANSED!
AND I AM ARMAGEDDON MADE INCARNATE.
I WILL RID THIS WORLD OF SINNERS AND GUIDE THE FAITHFUL TO SALVATION!
YOU'RE GOING TO SAVE THE WORLD SINGLE-HANDED, HUH?
DON'T FOOL YOURSELF!
BY CHOOSING TO DECIDE THE FATE OF YOUR FELLOW MAN, YOU HAVE SET YOURSELF ABOVE THEM--ON A LEVEL WITH GOD!
AND THAT, MY FRIEND, IS A SIN!
YOU ARE USING PEOPLE'S FEARS, TWISTING THEM TO SUIT YOUR OWN ENDS.
STOP NOW--WHILE YOU STILL CAN!

PLEASE LISTEN TO HIM, FATHER.
WHAT HE SAYS MAKES SENSE!
QUESTION NOT MY JUDGMENT, JUDAH!
I DO ONLY WHAT I MUST!
FATHER-- PLEASE!
LOWER YOUR STAFF.
VIOLENCE WILL SOLVE NOTHING!
THOU DOST DARE RAISE THY HAND TO ME?
REMEMBER THY PLACE, CHILD!
UNH-H
OKAY, THAT'S ENOUGH!
CAN'T YOU SEE WHAT YOU'RE BECOMING?
THIS IS ALL THY FAULT!
THOU HAST TURNED MY SON AGAINST ME!
DON'T BE ABSURD!
JUST LISTEN TO YOUR--
AAGHH!!

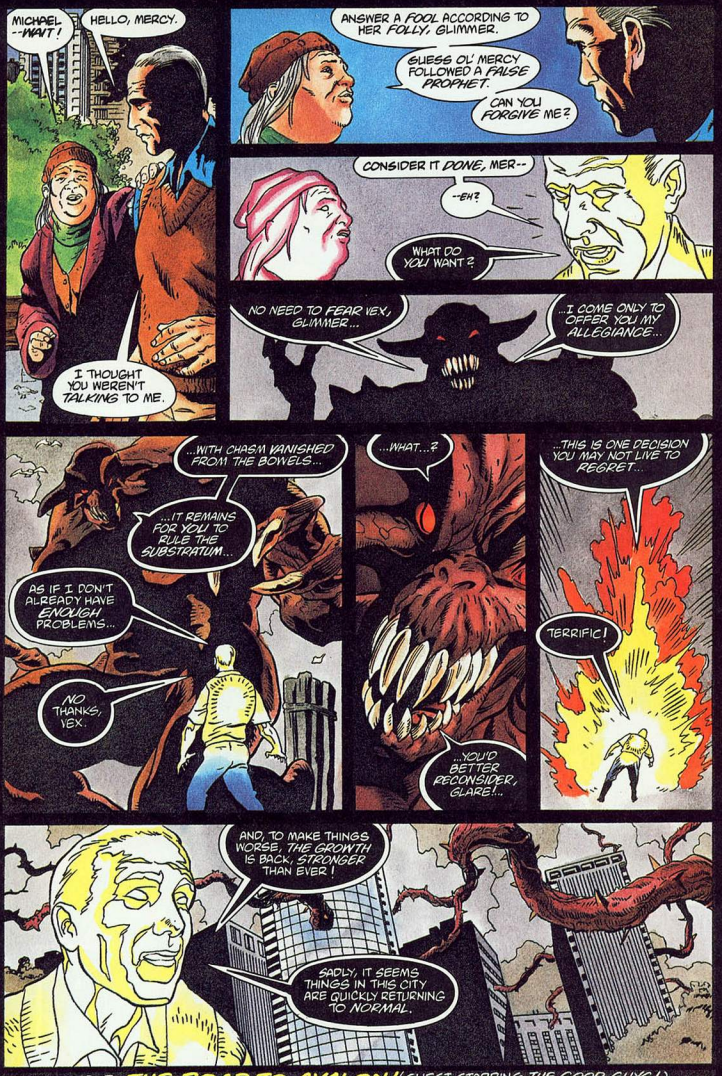
HE'S LIKE NOTHING I'VE EVER FACED BEFORE--
--ABLE TO AFFECT OBJECTS ON THE SUB-STRATUM WITHOUT ACTUALLY CROSSING OVER TO THIS SIDE!
YE CAN RUN, DEVIL, BUT YE CANNOT HIDE!
EVENTUALLY THOU SHALT FEEL MY RIGHTEOUS WRATH--
--AS SHALL THIS FOUL BLACK CITY!
HEY! THIS IS GETTIN' SERIOUS!
THE MORE THE PURITAN LOSES CONTROL--
--THE QUICKER NEW YORK'S DEMONS RETURN!
HE'S UNDOING ALL THE GOOD HE'S ACCOMPLISHED--
--AND I CAN'T LET THAT CONTINUE!
THOU CANST NOT AVOID ME FOREVER, WICKED ONE!

MAYBE NOT--
--BUT I CAN TRY!
COWARD!
REVEAL THYSELF!
IF YOU INSIST!
WHA--?!?
HAD TO REALLY CONCENTRATE TO AFFECT HIS STAFF--!
...FEEL YOUR FEAR...
...STRONG AND CLEAR...
DO YE THINK ME EASY PREY NOW, HELLSPAWN?
THEN YE THINK WRONGLY--
--AS THOU SHALT LEARN TO THY EVER-LASTING SORROW!
--SCLERK!--
NOTHING MUST STAY ME FROM MY MOST HOLY MISSION!

COME TO ME, JUDAH! JOIN ME!
HELP ME BRING THIS EVIL CITY TO ITS KNEES!
I--I WANT TO, FATHER--
--BUT I'M AFRAID!
HELP ME, MICHAEL!
TELL ME WHAT TO DO!
I WISH I COULD, SON--
--BUT THE DECISION HAS TO BE YOURS!
FATHER?
NO!
I WANT TO--BUT I CAN'T!
I JUST CAN'T!
IT'S OKAY, SON.
REALLY, IT'S OKAY.
I'M SORRY...SO SORRY.
DON'T BE. WE ALL DO WHAT WE HAVE TO DO.
SO NOW I HAVE LOST MY ONLY BEGOTTEN SON TO THIS CITY'S CORRUPTION?
VERY WELL... SO BE IT.
STILL SHALL THIS DEN OF INIQUITY SUFFER MY RIGHTEOUS JUDGMENT!

"BEHOLD HOW THE DARKNESS DESCENDS UPON THE CITY--
"--THE BLACKNESS OF ITS OWN BENIGHTED SOUL!"
PURITAN-- STOP! YOU DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU'RE DOING!
YOU ARE TOYING WITH FORCES YOU CAN NEVER CONTROL!
I AM AS ONE WITH THE LORD, SINNER--AND HIS JUSTICE MUST BE SERVED!
THE TIME HATH COME, ALMIGHTY, TO PUNISH THE WICKED--
--TO STRIKE DOWN THOSE WHO WOULD MOCK THEE!
POOR SAD FOOL...
IN THY HOLY NAME, I DO SUMMON THE LIGHTNING TO SMITE THY--
--ARRGGHH!!
KRAK!

FATHER?
FATHHHER!!!
H-HE'S GONE...
NOTHING LEFT OF HIM BUT THIS...
IT'S... SALT.
ONLY SALT.
POOR FATHER...
...WHY WOULDN'T YOU LISTEN?
JUDAH, ARE YOU...?
LOOK TO THE SKY, MICHAEL.
YOU HAVE NOTHING MORE TO FEAR.
IT IS OVER.
AT LEAST FOR NOW.


MICHAEL--WAIT!
HELLO, MERCY.
I THOUGHT YOU WEREN'T TALKING TO ME.
ANSWER A FOOL ACCORDING TO HER FOLLY, GLIMMER.
GUESS OL' MERCY FOLLOWED A FALSE PROPHET.
CAN YOU FORGIVE ME?
CONSIDER IT DONE, MER--
--EH?
WHAT DO YOU WANT?
NO NEED TO FEAR YEX, GLIMMER...
...I COME ONLY TO OFFER YOU MY ALLEGIANCE...
...WITH CHASM VANISHED FROM THE BOWELS...
...IT REMAINS FOR YOU TO RULE THE SUBSTRATUM...
AS IF I DON'T ALREADY HAVE ENOUGH PROBLEMS...
NO THANKS, YEX.
...WHAT...?
...YOU'D BETTER RECONSIDER, GLARE!...
...THIS IS ONE DECISION YOU MAY NOT LIVE TO REGRET...
TERRIFIC!
AND, TO MAKE THINGS WORSE, THE GROWTH IS BACK, STRONGER THAN EVER!
SADLY, IT SEEMS THINGS IN THIS CITY ARE QUICKLY RETURNING TO NORMAL.

NEXT: **THE ROAD TO AVALON!** (GUEST-STARRING THE GOOD GUYS!)

DETAILS of the DOMINION

Reminder:
To better understand
the Quantum Substratum—
Keep a journal about the things
I've encountered there.

GALAHAD

The real hero of the Quantum Substratum, Galahad used to be an ordinary human, like I am—Well, like I *was*. Is he indeed the original Sir Galahad? Does it really matter? Back in another age, another time, Galahad learned to walk the Quantum Plane, and he's been trapped there ever since. That's where I can help Galahad and his consort, Peaches—they need someone able to travel between the Quantum world and our "hard" world. Our world unwittingly provides Chasm, Mule and the demons with the fuel to power their evil—but humans also gave Galahad *his* powers, the goodness and heroism that keeps evil from taking over Earth completely. That makes sense—if there's a devil, mustn't there also be a God? Helpful though Mercy and our friends are, having Galahad around gives me that much more hope of defeating Chasm, Mule, and their kind.

letters TO THE EDITOR

DEFIANT welcomes your comments.

Please address all mail to:
Letters to the Editor
DEFIANT
232 Madison Avenue
New York, NY 10016

JIM SHOOTER
Editor in Chief

WINSTON FOWLKES
Publisher

JANET JACKSON
Creative Director

PAULINE WEISS
Senior Editor

JOE JAMES
Editor

RON ZALME
Production Director

PETER LUKIC
Design Director

ROD OLLERENSHAW
Assistant Production Manager

DEBBIE FIX
General Manager

CLARK SMITH
Sales & Marketing Manager

MICHAEL HURLEY
Advertising Sales

Dear Mr. Shooter,
Having collected comics for over two decades (and having ignored most of the newer "universes" such as Valiant and Image), I decided it was time that I "got in on the ground floor," so to speak, and I took a chance on DEFIANT.

I have to admit, I was disappointed at first. After the excellent promise of *...PLASM* #0 in *Previews*, I felt like DEFIANT had trouble getting out of the starting gate. The stories in the first few issues of *WARRIORS OF PLASM* and *DARK DOMINION*, while containing some of the best artwork on the market today, lacked a certain forcefulness (for lack of a better word). I was disappointed with the first issue of *THE GOOD GUYS* because I don't happen to like it when comics "intrude" into the real world; to me, it only serves to overemphasize the unreality of comics. The purpose of any fiction should be to help the reader suspend his or her disbelief. Having real-life people and places in comics only serves to undermine this part of the storytelling process, in my opinion. However, since that slow beginning, all of the DEFIANT books have begun to pick up steam and I find myself enjoying them more and more each month. *WAR DANCER* is a very interesting concept and the artwork is fabulous. *CHARLEMAGNE* is, to me at least, the most intriguing effort yet. *WARRIORS OF PLASM* has improved with each issue, especially in storytelling and pacing.

But the single best issue of the DEFIANT line so far has been *DARK DOMINION* #6. Len Wein is really beginning to get the book firing on all cylinders. The message contained in *"What Dreams May Come"* is timely and powerful and really suggests some of the limitless possibilities for stories that go along with a concept as broad as the "Substratum" of the Quantum field that *Michael Alexander* has gained the power to move through. This limbo of the psyche and of the quantum field could be just as strong a basis for stories as "the dreaming" is in DC's *SANDMAN*. With a writer like Mr. Wein, I can see great potential for *DARK DOMINION* to explore an even darker side of the City than we have seen so far.

I also see even greater potential for social commentary and criticism in *WARRIORS OF PLASM*. The conformity/non-conformity debate; the individual vs. the collective mind; and how about other issues like modern-day plagues such as AIDS? How would a living entity such as *the Org* deal with an invading organism?

Obviously, I could go on. But that would be getting away from my main purpose of saying "Thanks" for providing some excellent and thought-provoking escapism in what has become a very stale and clichéd comic book market. Keep up the good work.

Sincerely,
David Guffy
Smiths Grove, KY

Dear DEFIANT
men and women:
DARK DOMINION is still the best idea to come out (and maintain a regular publishing schedule) in the comics field in a long time. With all of the team books and tormented-youth comics, it sometimes seems that all comic writers have lost their creative abilities. Or maybe it's just that their companies get too big to allow for new ideas or some semblance of independence.

The whole idea of *DARK*

DOMINION really sinks that mindset, though. Enabling us to visit another dimension that exists within our own universe, where everyone still looks and acts like humans (who speak English) is cool. It just flows and the concepts are easy to understand, almost like you could really go there. All of the creatures that feed off people and crawl all over them, sometimes even digging into them, are gross and neat at the same time. It will really allow for a lot of future storylines. The lack of visual detail in the *Quantum Substratum*, except on the beings living there, helps with the transition between "worlds," avoiding confusion when *Michael* switches back and forth multiple times.

In *DD* #5 and #6, you managed to treat and portray child abuse in a subtle way, without heavy-handed explanations that insult readers' intelligence. Sometimes other books lose their plot and substance when trying to deal with something so serious. In *DD* #7, there was no big fight scene, no romance opportunity, just a day in the life of a man still unused to his extra abilities. Finding out about the different ways of using the *Substratum* is neat, but don't give *Michael* too many powers just yet. I want this guy to be around for years, so don't force too much on him now—save some for future issues.

One last detail I appreciate: The stories are basically contained within each issue, so you don't feel like you're being *forced* to buy the next one, you just want to. I hope you will avoid crossovers. They really deter from a book's integrity. Sure, it's fun to see your favorite characters work together or fight sometimes, but please don't use them to try and increase sales.

Overall, I just plain like *DARK DOMINION*. I look forward to reading it first out of my little weekly pile, unlike others that are sometimes good, sometimes boring, sometimes bad. This one is simply *good*—day in and day out.

Thanks for your time,
Benjamin Willig
Wilton, NY

Dear Team DEFIANT:
You folks may just have made a letter-hack out of me! *CHARLEMAGNE* was the first comic book I ever felt moved to write a letter about (and *thanks* so much for publishing my letter in *CHARLEMAGNE* #2, which I enjoyed just as much as #0 and #1—but that's a letter for another time, I guess!) and, as you can see, *DARK DOMINION* inspired my second letter. I'd been wanting to buy the book from the start, since I'm a sucker for supernatural stories set in New York City, but the comics store near me always ran out of it too quickly. Then I met this nice young man who buys it, and after sneaking a peek at his back issues, I was hooked (I'm hooked on the young man, too, but that's also a letter for another time *and* probably another forum!). Talk about people bringing their own problems on themselves! It's truly inspired, this concept of people's fears and frustrations actually taking the form of demons and monsters, who soon take on a life of their own and end up *causing* these fears and frustrations. And I like the idea that you can beat your own fears if you work at it (nice touch, having *Michael Alexander* warn people that he can only keep the beasts at bay for so long, and that it's up to the people themselves to *keep* them away).

Michael Alexander, the *"Glimmer"* himself, is a fresh and likable hero. I'm only 23, but I like seeing older people get a chance to be superheroes (or heroines, as with *WARRIORS OF PLASM's* wonderful *Mrs. J.* As I said in my *CHARLEMAGNE* letter, my mom—and I!—can hardly wait for *GLORY*). Younger heroes are a dime a dozen—I'm glad you're giving the middle-aged and elderly a crack at heroism! (Besides, you could tap a whole new comics audience that way!)

By the way, I really like the *"Details of the Dominion"* feature you started in *DD* #6! Not only does it sum up each creature-of-the-issue nicely, but the diary's writing style really does feel like *Michael* jotted it down after a hard day of demon-fighting. It fits *Michael's* "hard world" profession, too; writers are big on diaries and journals, you know. The little ink splotch on the entry for *Vex*, causer of "minor glitches that become major problems" was a clever touch! Did Len Wein write those diary entries as well as the script, and did Louis Small and J.G. Jones draw the diary sketches for, respectively, *DD* #6 and #7?

Thanks to all of you at DEFIANT for putting out high-quality books with compelling stories and offbeat heroes we can really root for! You've made a DEFIANT one out of me!

May the "hard world" win!
Elisabeth Apfelbraün
Bronx, NY

The diary entries are written by your fellow Bronxite, Dorian Tenore-Bartilucci, though the hand-printing itself is by Janet Jackson. The sketches are by Rob LaQuinta and Jason Brightman.

This is the way the world ends... This is the way the world ends... This is the way the world ends... With a bang!
SCHISM™
BE CAREFUL WHAT YOU DREAM
The story so BIG it takes every August DEFIANT title PLUS a special 4-issue SCHISM mini-series to tell!
Written by Jim Shooter with Len Wein
Art by David Lapham and Dick Giordano
DEFIANT

Jim Shooter
EDITOR IN CHIEF

I originally wrote this column for Hero Illustrated Magazine, *but it's a good one and it bears reprinting here.*

The number one problem in the comics industry is not the glut, not lack of talent, not the crash of the speculator market, not thin margins, not late books, not even *greed*–though that's a contender.

The number one problem is *lack of honor*.

Look at us–an industry that trades heavily upon the concept of noble super-heroes–do you see many stand-up guys around? What you see is a *lot* of backbiting, childish petulance, pettiness and rodentlike wimp-ism.

You see cronyism and patronage carried to absurd extremes. Editors at the big houses don't hire the best writers for the titles in their care, they hire each other on a you-scratch-my-back-I'll-scratch-yours basis. Brown-nosing is a more important job skill for artists than mastery of their craft or talent. If you ask an artist about that, he or she will probably say it isn't so in their case, of course, but yes, they're aware of the syndrome. The corollary is equally ugly–no small number of freelance artists have told me that they'd like to do a job for DEFIANT, but can't because they might be "blackballed" at Marvel by certain editors who have some axe to grind. And when some creator *is* unjustly dumped, because he was seen with the wrong people, or because some editor's buddy needed work, don't look for other creators to rally around. Typically, they'll look the other way in droves, glad it's not them being screwed.

Injustice is routinely tolerated in this business. While I was a V. P. at Marvel, I was working from within to improve the sorry treatment of Marvel's founding fathers–Kirby, Ditko, Heck, Ayers, et al–and making grudging progress, until Kirby sued, seeking ownership of the properties he'd created or co-created. At that point Marvel's top management went into bunker mode. Kirby began to get publicity mostly from publications wherein Marvel didn't advertise, and, apparently a great deal of support within the trade as well as among fans. As the groundswell started I remember thinking that it would mean catastrophe for Marvel–that our creative people would leave us in waves, that retailers and distributors would no longer support us, that fans would boycott our books, that it could be the end.

Nah.

Everybody was happy to give lip service to Kirby, but few seriously put themselves out. Me? Once I had reached an impasse with Marvel's owners, and realized that I could no longer make a difference working from within, I left.

Several years later, when Valiant was stolen out from under me, many people privately expressed their con-

dolences, their support, their *outrage*–but as a practical matter the industry turned a blind eye. I wasn't surprised. By that time, Valiant was a big money maker for the distributors and retailers, an important advertiser to the trade publications, a lucrative account for the creative people, and well-entrenched with the fans. The trade press, if anything, made apologies for the pirates.

What passes for journalism in our trade press is generally appalling. Facts are seldom checked. "News" stories are often blatantly slanted in favor of whomever has the most clout. Columnists misuse their platforms. Can you imagine a column written by a professional athlete in which he or she routinely criticized other professionals in his or her sport? Or a column written by an actor in which he or she routinely slandered other actors, film studios, theater owners and moviegoers?

The words "conflict of interest" obviously mean nothing to these people. One comics writer who is also a columnist asked me for work, was politely refused, and has since written a column bashing DEFIANT. In what other industry would such behavior be tolerated?

I've even seen editors from one house doing reviews of comics from other houses in trade press columns.

This very magazine *(Hero Illustrated)* runs a column which purports to provide inside information but has consistently run pure fiction with regard to DEFIANT.

Irresponsibility is lack of honor. Especially as far as the press is concerned.

Amazingly, readers seem to believe a lot of the garbage they read. You'd think anyone who'd ever read *Spider-Man* would be a little suspicious of journalists.

So why is our industry this way? Low self-esteem, I think. We started out as the poor stepchild of syndicated comics, which themselves were second class citizens of the arts. I think a lot of people in this business still feel looked down upon, and act as though they deserve to be.

The truth is that the comic book industry has grown up a lot recently. Before we can truly come of age, though, we're going to have to learn to show some self-respect.

When you get right down to it, that's what honor is.

It may interest you to know that on April 8, 1994 it was announced that Valiant, or more properly Voyager Communications Inc., was sold by the pirates and weasels who stole it to Acclaim Entertainment for $65,000,000.

Jim Shooter
FYM

SCHISM
BE CAREFUL WHAT YOU DREAM
DEFIANT

Pauline Weiss
SENIOR EDITOR

I'm still learning DEFIANT office culture, and early on I caught onto a phrase these folks use a lot:

Let's see if we can harness his power for good.

That's great, isn't it? I've heard it applied in reference to everyone from a penciller discovered at the last convention to the new summer intern. It's particularly apt used in a comics company because it's one of those Truth, Justice and the American Way phrases: in a melodramatic but sincere way it conveys an energetic dedication to the values that heroes stand for. Sure, it's corny, but it feels right.

About a month ago, Jim Shooter told me he wanted to harness my power for good.

Last year when Jim asked my husband, Alan Weiss, to help him build a universe, it was the beginning of a dizzying and fun ride for the both of us. Not only did I get to witness the universe a'borning, but I had the opportunity to watch DEFIANT grow. I remember walking into these offices when they first moved in and remarking to general manager Debbie Fix on how much room there was, and now that I'm here, all I can see is how much room there *isn't!*

The best part was developing friendships with these marvelous people. Beyond the hours spent in the office, we did the summer conventions under the DEFIANT banner. Janet Jackson and I became immediate, fast friends, discovering a shared fetish for cowboy kitsch. I loved hearing the sonorous voice of publisher Winston Fowlkes, telling tales of his adventures when he was Vice President of Finance at Time-Life. Nothing is better than sharing a laugh with marketing director Clark Smith, aka "The King of Infectuous Energy". Speaking of energy, there are few people with more of that than editor Joe James...and he looks *darn good* in a cowboy hat!

A great moment: sitting at a long table in a restaurant with about thirty DEFIANT creators and staff after the Great Eastern Convention this past January, toasting the late Jack Kirby, *and other people in the restaurant raising their glasses with us.* Good times. Really good friends.

More impressively, I watched all of them, the staff, and the creators, pull together some of the most original and well-told comics stories under some very arduous conditions.

And then there's Jim, the hub around which all this revolves. Tireless, energetic, dedicated, tenacious, endlessly creative, you've heard all of this before; Alan says Jim's superpower is *focus*. Putting aside the fact that I grew up on the comics he wrote: watching him through the "starting over" process of building DEFIANT, what impressed me the most are his abiding obsessions with quality, honor and loyalty. It's clear in his dealings with creators, staff, and our readership; it's clear in the high standards he applies and upholds for all DEFIANT product. My predecessor, Ed Polgardy (to whom I'm highly indebted—*thanks, Ed*), told you about it last month, and I'm a willing witness to it as well.

It came down to this: I believe in these people and I believe in their vision. So when Jim asked me to consider leaving the corporate world of advertising behind and invited me to formally join Team DEFIANT, how could I refuse?

I'm proud to officially be part of the DEFIANT family. I'll make a solemn vow to you now (in the great comics tradition!) that I'll work very hard with these good people to bring you the very best comics stories we can. It's not just a job, it's an adventure.

Sure, it's corny. *But it feels right.*

Pauline Weiss

DEFIANT Directory

***WARRIORS OF PLASM* #11**

CHASM ON PLASM!

It's the **Warriors** vs. the **Dark Lord of Earth**!

Introducing **Gossamer**... **Lorca** thought he'd never fall in love again...

On Sale in June!

***THE GOOD GUYS* #8**

The Good Guys get a cool new headquarters—and uncool new enemies! Brace yourself for **The Brainflash Boys** and **Tia Sombra**! *(You'll see more of them in SCHISM!)*

Guest-starring **Glory** from *WARRIORS OF PLASM!*

On Sale in June!

***WAR DANCER* #5**

War Dancer VS. Charlemagne

The brawl to end it all! A battle with the world in the balance—for real!

The forces of the Great SCHISM are at hand!

On Sale in June!

***PRUDENCE & CAUTION* #2**

Sueraceen pits the **World Conqueror** against the **World-Saver**!

Prudence's brawn and cunning vs. **Mouse**'s self-DNAbling battle-arm! It's gonna be a *messy* fight!

Also available in Spanish. On Sale in June!

***CHARLEMAGNE* #4**

As the Great *SCHISM* draws closer, **Charles Smith** battles virtually *everyone!*

Guest-starring **Mindfox** from *WARRIORS OF PLASM* in Part 6 of *"Foxhunt"*

On Sale in June!

***DOGS OF WAR* #3**

No partner. No holding back.

The most intense super-vigilante of all time patrols the streets. Start praying, scum!

On Sale in June!

***DARK DOMINION* #9**

The **Puritan**'s going to destroy New York City.

That's the *good* news.

On Sale in June!

Next Month Watch for

SCHISM

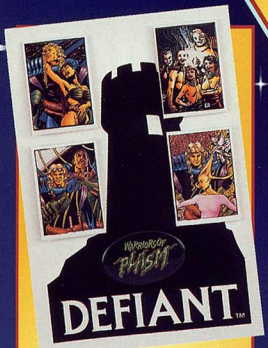
BE CAREFUL WHAT YOU DREAM

Beyond the Imaginary Limits.

5 TREASURES FROM ANOTHER UNIVERSE!

THE TOTALLY INCREDIBLE *DEFIANT™ UNIVERSE* BEYOND-THE-IMAGINARY-LIMITS!

LIMITED EDITION COMIC COLLECTIBLES!



WARRIORS OF PLASM™
LIMITED EDITION PIN SET
An extraordinary 5-piece pin set.
Limited to 1,000 sets.
All the main heroes and villains from *Warriors of Plasm* are portrayed in this high-quality collectible.
Price: $14.95

TO ORDER CALL
(800) 396-3214
MASTERCARD, VISA, CHECKS, OR MONEY ORDERS ACCEPTED

***DEFIANT™* GENESIS POSTER:**
In That Infinite Instant
Huge 24" x 18" featuring War Dancer™!
Numbered limited edition (only 1,000 produced).
Signed in ink by Alan Weiss (artist) and Janet Jackson (colorist).
SPECIAL BONUS: Origin of *Defiant Universe* story included. Price: $19.95

***DEFIANT™* T-SHIRT**
Black with logo emblazoned on front and back. 100% cotton.
Specify Size: L or XL Price: $14.95

***DEFIANT™* WATCH**
Limited edition — only 750 made!
Contemporary style watch featuring *Defiant* logo face. 3-year limited warranty.
Quartz analog movement with second hand. Price: $29.95

***DEFIANT™* CAP**
Black with *Defiant* logo on front.
Price: $12.95

© 1994 Megacards, Inc., St. Louis, MO 63146 • WARRIORS OF PLASM™ and DEFIANT™ are trademarks of Enlightened Entertainment Partner, L.P.